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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/707,411 | 12/11/2003 | Bruce Albrecht | ITW7510.061 | 1410 |
| 33647 | 7590 | 09/13/2007 | EXAMINER | |
| ZIOLKOWSKI PATENT SOLUTIONS GROUP, SC (ITW) | | | | KERN, KEVIN P |
| 136 S WISCONSIN ST | | | | |
| PORT WASHINGTON, WI 53074 | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| | | 1725 | | |
| NOTIFICATION DATE | | | DELIVERY MODE | |
| 09/13/2007 | | | ELECTRONIC | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/707,411 | ALBRECHT ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Kevin P. Kerns | 1725 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2007.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6,8-21 and 24-27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 9-21 and 24-26 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 4-6,8 and 27 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 11 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 83 08 99.3.

As to claim 1, DE '99.3 discloses an enclosure, a power source (8 is a control panel having power source) within the enclosure, a shielding gas regulator (5) connected with first gas source (7) within an enclosure. The valve and a gauge are attached to the shielding gas regulator and accessible from outside (8 is the control panel) the enclosure. As to claim 2, the first gas is a gas cylinder connecting to a regulator. As to claim 3, the gas cylinder is disposable.

Terminal Disclaimer

3. The terminal disclaimer filed on October 5, 2006 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent No. 6,977,358 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 9-21 and 24-26 are allowed.

5. Claims 4-6, 8, and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. The examiner acknowledges the applicants' amendment received by the USPTO on March 12, 2007. The applicants are referred to the revisions to the allowable subject matter in above sections 4 and 5. The applicants have added new claim 27. Claims 1-6, 8-21, and 24-27 are currently under consideration in the application.

7. Applicants' arguments filed March 12, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With regard to the applicants' remarks/arguments on pages 6-8 of the amendment, it is noted that the arguments addressing claims 17 and 26 (in the middle paragraph on page 7 and in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the remarks, respectively) no longer apply, as claims 17-21 and 26 are now allowed. Regarding the applicants' arguments addressing rejected claims 1-3, in particular independent claim 1, the examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicants' underlined statements, "via a gas path free of restriction therein" (page 6) and "without any restrictions therebetween"

(page 7). The threaded valve 7 of DE '99.3 would not be a "restriction" when in the open position, and the applicants have not set forth any claim limitation(s) to that effect. As a result, claims 1-3 remain rejected.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Kevin P. Kerns whose telephone number is (571) 272-1178. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jonathan Johnson can be reached on (571) 272-1177. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kevin P. Kerns *Kevin Kerns 8/28/07*
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1725

KPK
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August 28, 2007